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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY

January 26, 1948

TC: A-P - Mr. Mullen

Attached is a summary statement of our view of the relationship of our overseas program to the regular Foreign Service.

Mr. Armstrong is planning to seek a conference with Mr. Ravndal, at which time he will hand this statement to him.

We are hopeful that this will not only serve to provide a consistent explanation of this program to the Appropriations Committee, but also to provide a framework within which we may be able to operate. For that reason, we would appreciate any comments which you may have prior to Mr. Armstrong's seeing Mr. Ravndal.

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The Foreign Service Officer in Support of
Research and Intelligence

The life blood of any intelligence service is complete and accurate coverage of current information from all parts of the world. Although the Foreign Service of the United States bears a heavy responsibility to the intelligence agencies of this Government, the regular Foreign Service Officer cannot supplant the military attache, the naval attache, the air attache, or even the agricultural or commercial attaches. In the same way, there are other specialized assignments for which the Foreign Service must call upon specialists. In fact, one of the objectives of the Foreign Service Act of 1946, which established the Foreign Service Reserve Corps, was to make available to the Foreign Service the services of highly qualified specialists from civilian agencies and from private business.

The regular Foreign Service Officer must of necessity be selected and trained with a view to his suitability and fitness to represent the U.S. abroad, as well as to his capabilities as a reporting officer. However, intelligence requirements are often highly specialized, and, although the Foreign Service constitutes the only worldwide reporting service in the political, economic and related fields, some particular intelligence requirements must be fulfilled. It is for this reason that a small task force of 60 positions again has been requested for next year.

The individuals sent abroad within the 60 positions are members of the Foreign Service in every sense of the word, just as personnel sent out to perform specialized jobs for other agencies of this Government are an integral part of the Foreign Service. Moreover, much of the work done by these specialists fits into the regular pattern of service to other agencies by our foreign missions. For example, the work of the Publications Procurement Officers is heavily relied upon by the Library of Congress, the Army Medical Library, the Department of Agriculture Library and others; and the Map Procurement Officers are a primary source of maps and cartographic data for the Central Intelligence Agency and the Library of Congress.

A Reserve Officer sent out from one of our research divisions is sent to fill a specialized need in precisely the same manner as one who is sent from the Department of Agriculture or the Department of Commerce. There are research tasks abroad which require an individual with unique language competence or other specialized training and experience which can be obtained only by professional study or actual experience in a research and intelligence organization.

The Foreign Service Officer, who is selected on a different and far broader basis for a lifetime of service in the diplomatic and consular fields, does not have the need for, or the opportunity to obtain, the highly specialized training required for this type of assignment. He will serve in a number of different posts; the top of his profession, for which he prepares himself over a long career, is to be the representative of his Government abroad, not solely a reporting officer or specialized research officer.

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1. The list of members follows:

There are 112 cases specifically requested. Those relating to Iraq or other countries abroad (11) are pending, jobs requiring not only a thorough knowledge of the language, but also a detailed background and experience in the country to the various fields of training and development with a minimum in depth of the political and economic history of the area. More very recent demand that these specialists should develop skills to be able to conduct feasible within the particular area.

Following are some typical examples of the work which the participating specialists will do:

(c) Canton. Assembling of data and preparation of studies as the basis for an estimate of the political and economic potential of Southern China.

(b) Warsaw, Helsinki, Tehran, Beirut, Istanbul Assembling a stockpile of information concerning Eastern Europe for use in studying political trends as they relate to the Communist movement and its composition groups.

(c) Oslo. Supplementing research in the Department on various aspects of post war developments in Norway, such as the social and economic features of domestic policies as they relate to internationalization, the main currents of opposition to the government program, the regional and operational distribution of Communist strength, and the extent of Norway's participation in the cultural, social, and economic spheres of the movements for Scandinavian cooperation.

(3) Praxis. Studies of current obstacles in future progress of the Western European countries in respect to their economic recovery and development, problems of economic relationships between Western Europe and Germany, the shift in French party strength in the period since November 1946, and the attraction of the various parties to particular economic or class sections of the electorate.

(c) Analysis. Studies concerning the development of possible party systems in the Philippines, possible future handling of the opposition with emphasis on the nature of structural problems and institutions of control which have created opposition, including such diagnostic groups as labor leaders and agrarian reformers at the grass-roots, and collaborationists on the other.

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2. There are 9 Publications Procurement Officers requested. Five have been in the field for periods up to two years, and a sixth is now in process. It is a well known fact that most important information concerning foreign countries is available from open sources: official government reports, newspapers, periodicals, books, etc. These publications are readily available to specialists who know how and where to find them by virtue of extensive training in the techniques of book selection and library science and a thorough knowledge of the publishing business.

Following are some examples:

(a) Shanghai. From October 1945 to November 1946, a Publications Procurement Officer sent to Washington a monthly average of 4,000 books, newspapers and periodicals from Shanghai. The average for the past three months, when no Publications Procurement Officer was assigned, was 464.

(b) Cairo. In 1947, a Publications Procurement Officer, in his first month, sent to Washington 5,370 publications in contrast to 195 for the month preceding his arrival.

(c) Madrid. A Publications Procurement Officer sent in 925 non-serial publications in the past two months; while from Prague, a critical area, the Department received only 46 during the same period, and from Istanbul it received only 1.

(d) Moscow. A Publications Procurement Officer and a clerk are responsible for a steady flow of an amazing quantity of printed matter on Russia—a feat which had been considered impossible.

3. There are 4 Map Procurement Officers requested, all of whom are in the field. Like other publications, maps and geographic reference materials can be acquired only by experts who know what to look for and where. Not only the Department, but also the Central Intelligence Agency, the Library of Congress, Army Map Service and other Federal agencies are beneficiaries of the work of Map Procurement Officers who, because of their professional qualifications, are able to arrange for long-term continuing exchanges of these materials between official organizations of each country concerned and the appropriate agencies of the U.S. Government, and can obtain valuable detailed information of official and private mapping agencies and geographic institutes in respect to personnel, methods, equipment, production and programs.

4. There are 2 Biographic Reporting Officers requested who will be assigned to areas from which there is a particular lack of biographic information. It is expected that the area of assignment will cover a

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number of Foreign Service posts. These officers, by reason of their knowledge of the language, history, and customs of the countries, together with their specialized training and experience in the techniques of collection, processing, and organizing of biographic data, will be able to perform a twofold function: First, they will be able to establish in Foreign Service posts biographic files and standardized procedures for keeping them up-to-date with all information available in the area, as well as in Washington; second, they will be able to standardize biographic reporting so that eventually there will be available in Washington up-to-date information concerning all significant persons throughout the world.

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